

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

Analyze the factors that contributed to the increasing centralization of Spain and the factors that contributed to the continuing fragmentation of Italy in the period 1450–1550.

9–8 points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced; covers at some length all major topics suggested by the prompt (at least two factors each for Spain and Italy).
- All major assertions are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence and linked to the question.
- Essay may contain errors that do not detract from argument.

7–6 points

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, is effective in support of the argument, but may not be consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced; covers at least briefly all major topics suggested by the prompt (two factors each for Spain and Italy).
- All major assertions are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence and linked to the question.
- Essay may contain an error that detracts from argument.

5–4 points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, is effective in support of the argument, but may not consistently be followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; neglects some major topics suggested by the prompt.
- Essay may have two factors for either Spain or Italy and one for the region.
- Most of the major assertions are supported by least one piece of relevant evidence and linked to the question.
- Essay may contain a few errors that detract from argument.

3–2 points

- There is no explicit thesis or the thesis merely repeats or paraphrases the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; neglects most major topics suggested by the prompt.
- Only one or two major assertions are supported by relevant evidence.
- Essay may contain several errors that detract from argument.

1–0 points

- There is no discernible attempt at a thesis.
- There is no discernible organization.
- Essay mentions one or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- Essay may contain numerous errors that detract from argument.

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Question 2 (continued)

Historical Background

Spain

- Iberia was divided into parts—Portugal, Castile, Aragon, Granada (Muslim ruled until 1492).
- Marriage of Ferdinand (d. 1516) and Isabella (d. 1505) took place in 1469.
 - Opposed by Castilian nobility, Kingdom of Spain was created after 10 years of civil war.
 - Assumed thrones in 1474 (Castile) and 1479 (Aragon), but not a monolithic state.
 - Aragon — federation of territories
 - Castile
 - Monarchs asserted authority over nobles.
 - *Cortes* of Castile, dominated by urban elements who wanted peace, helped rulers establish superiority.
 - Centralization:
 - Reduced number of great nobles in royal council, replaced by lawyers.
 - Relied heavily on the *Hermandad* (civic militia) to enforce justice.
 - Encouraged marriage between two nobilities.
 - Overhauled crown administration, especially financial agencies.
 - Ability became more important than birth.
 - *Hidalgos* (lesser nobles) depended on royal favor and became more important at court.
 - Controlled military orders.
 - Controlled power of great nobles.
 - Church:
 - Pope gave Ferdinand and Isabella the title “Catholic Monarchs” and the right to make ecclesiastical appointments in newly won territory after they destroyed the Muslim kingdom in the South.
 - Charles I (also Holy Roman Emperor Charles V), successor to Ferdinand and Isabella, gained complete control over Church appointments.
 - Catholic reformation: Ignatius Loyola created Jesuits in 1534, missionaries and educators who cooperated with Spanish monarchy. Royal administration over towns and *cortes*.
 - Royal officials (*corregidores*) were given new powers in hierarchy.
 - Justice system was supervised directly by crown.
 - Taxes became more efficient.
 - Spanish monarchy also had effective control over Office of the Inquisition in Spain and used it to foster religious unity.
 - Reconquista of Muslim Spain was accomplished by 1492 — expelled Jews in 1492, Muslims in 1502, Moriscos in 1506.
 - Ferdinand created most effective standing army in Europe.
- Charles I/V continued Ferdinand and Isabella’s policies.
- Spanish colonial empire led to great increase in wealth of Spain in 1500s.

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Question 2 (continued)

Historical Background (continued)

Italy

- Unique state structure was developed during the Renaissance.
 - There were two types of states: republics and principalities.
 - Five major states (Naples, Papal States, Milan, Florence and Venice) maintained balance of power from 1450 to 1490s with Peace of Lodi (1454).
 - Venice and Florence were seen as model republics.
 - Venice was really an oligarchy of aristocratic merchants ruled by an elected doge.
 - Florence was run by Medici family, originally merchant-bankers.
 - Principality of Milan:
 - Ruled by Visconti family, which died out in 1447.
 - Sforza took over in 1450 and proclaimed it a duchy again until France invaded in 1494.
 - Eventually fell under Spanish rule.
 - Papal States:
 - Pope Alexander VI (1492–1503) was father to Cesare and Lucrezia Borgia.
 - Popes wanted to restore papal authority undermined by Schism (1378–1417).
 - Counter-Reformation popes revitalized both spirituality of Church and administration and finances of papacy in Rome but were not generally interested in Italian unification.
- Renaissance:
 - Civic humanism enhanced rivalries between cities.
 - Humanism and individualism at times emphasized individual achievement over political commitment.
 - Secularism inhibited the possible unifying force of the Church in Italy.
- Italian Wars or Habsburg-Valois Wars (1494–1559):
 - Milan asked Charles VIII of France for help in 1494 against Florence and Naples, thereby starting Italian Wars.
 - Rome was sacked by imperial troops in 1527; symbolized the weakness of Italy in the face of foreign invasion.
 - Charles V gained control of much of the peninsula in 1529 (Peace of Cambrai) and took Milan in 1535.
 - Fighting ended in 1559, but Habsburgs controlled Italy except for Venice, Tuscany (under the Medici) and Papal States.
 - Italian Wars demonstrated that small Italian city-states could not withstand large, centralized monarchies like Spain or France. Italy remained divided and largely under foreign rule by mid-1500s.

While Spain in the mid 15th and 16th centuries was becoming more centralized, Italy, on the other hand was not. The factors that led to Spanish centralization ~~was~~ include key marriages, expulsions of minorities deemed a threat, and tightly managed colonization of the new world. While the factors that kept Italy fragmented ~~are~~ ^{were} oligarchies

Marriages have played a key role in European history as seen in Spain

In 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella married in a dynastic union that centralized Spain under a common monarch. The implications of this were large as now Spain was ~~are~~ united under one monarch. Clearly, the centralizing impacts of this were great. One of the features of Ferdinand and Isabella that makes them very important to Spanish history, was the fact that they were very pious and very Catholic. As a result of this, in an attempt to centralize religion

and thus centralize Spain, they expelled Muslims and Jews in 1492. The consequences of this were great in the fact that the Spanish economy suffered, however, the centralizing effect its intent was, was achieved. When the New World was happened upon by Christopher Columbus, a new wave of ~~Spanish~~ explorers such as Pizarro, Cortés, and Columbus, opened up a way for the monarch to exert even more influence. Isabella and Ferdinand were heavily involved in the regulation of the importation of ~~spices~~ products like gold and silver and spices. This clearly shows the power exerted by the Spanish monarchy consolidating and regulation of colonial affairs, and by extension, the centralizing that it led to in Spain.

While all of this was taking place in Spain, Italy was ~~the~~ slipping into almost complete fragmentation. The mid 15th and 16th centuries in Italy ~~saw the~~ witnessed the Renaissance, a highlight of Italian history. However, at the cost of Renaissance teachings and flourishing, Italy was very fragmented. The main problem with this was there was no centralized ruler. Florence, for example, the very heart of the Renaissance was ^{virtually} ~~ruled by~~ ruled by such as Cosimo and Lorenzo by the powerful banking family, the ~~Medici~~ Medicis. [↑] These one despots were a common occurrence in Italy at

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering
on this page as it is designated in the exam.

2A-3

this time and is characterized by one man rulers ruling over a certain area of Italy and thus keeping it fragmented. Another large factor that kept Italy divided was the fact that it was often ruled or invaded by foreign territories. The Habsburg empire was a common threat to Italian centralization and under Charles V (1519-1558), parts of the Italian peninsula were under foreign rule. This clearly ~~shows the factors that~~ is clearly one very important factor in the continued fragmentation of Italy.

Around 1450-1550, the countries of Spain and Italy differed in their political structure greatly in that Spain was becoming more centralized, and Italy more fragmented. Due to the political movements in Italy, social movements of the time period, and ~~unification~~ of Spain, monarchial unification in Spain, the structures of these countries began to differ.

Italy in the 1400s and 1500s was composed of many city-states or principalities. Each city-state had their own local government and resources or specialties. The Papal States, Milan, Naples, Venice, and Florence are examples of the most powerful and recognized city-states of this time. Each area had specific areas of expertise such as ports, merchant cities, artistic influence, etc. This combined with the differing local governments and move towards despotism created disunity among Italian politics.

~~Considering the 1400s-1500s was when~~

The humanist ideas of philosophers ~~such~~ and writers like Francesco Petrarch began to circulate around the 1400s - 1500s, further contributing to Italian disunification. People became more concerned with individualism than production, laws, and church doctrine. The invasion of France into Italy helped spread humanism into northern Europe, but ~~it never~~ the movement never reached Spain.

While Italy was facing fragmentation, political movements toward despotism, and ~~social~~ the social movement of humanism, Spain had become united under Ferdinand and Isabella. ~~Formerly, the states of Aragon and Castille, the nation of Spain~~ The marriage of these monarchs united the former states of Castille and Aragon. Spain was a Catholic nation and remained so through the Renaissance and Reformation movements. The reform

2B-3

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

ideas of the 1400s-1500s dodged them.

In conclusion, Italy faced more disunity throughout the 1450s-1550s because of their location. It is for this same reason that Spain avoided disunity and disruption during a time period of change and enlightenment.

2.C-1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

During the time period of 1450 - 1550 many European countries saw ~~some~~ contrasting changes. Primarily Spain and Italy saw differing changes. On one hand Spain was becoming more centralized due to Ferdinand and Isabella's marriage while Italy was going through the Renaissance which supported decentralization.

The Renaissance was an extremely part of Italy's history and also helped shape its government. Due to the Renaissance many great thinking artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo etc. sprung up. With the Renaissance in full swing many philosophers sought to bring Italy back to Aristocratic days. This meant no centralized government but instead city-states that could have its own laws accordingly. This polis state system continued fragmentation in Italy.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2011 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

This question required students to perform four tasks: analyze two factors influencing the centralization of Spain and two factors influencing the fragmentation of Italy. The question did not require, but allowed for the possibility of, comparing and contrasting the two regions. In addition to identifying two factors for each region, students had to provide specific evidence to support their arguments; stronger essays contained explicit linkages between the evidence presented and the question of centralization in Spain or fragmentation in Italy.

Sample: 2A

Score: 8

The essay begins with a thesis that is strong on Spain and adequate on Italy. Three factors are identified for the centralization of Spain (the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, creating religious unity, and the impact of wealth from the New World) and two for the continued fragmentation of Italy (lack of a central ruler and the impact of foreign invasions). All the factors are supported by specific evidence and are clearly linked to the question. The essay did not earn a score of 9 because the treatment of the two regions is unbalanced and the number of factors identified is at the low end of the range for an 8–9 score, especially for Italy; on the other hand, the essay shows strong linkages between its thesis and supporting evidence for all five factors identified, thus earning a score of 8.

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

The essay has a somewhat vague but adequate thesis. It identifies several factors for the centralization of Spain and fragmentation of Italy, but only one factor for Spain (the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella) and two factors for Italy (separate city-states and the effect of different economic structures) are supported by appropriate evidence and linked to the question. Other factors identified and discussed in the essay are either not fully developed or not properly connected to the main argument. For example, the role of religion in Spain's centralization is not clearly articulated, and the statement that Spain "dodged" the reform ideas of the Renaissance and Reformation is simplistic and erroneous. For Italy, the Renaissance and the French invasions are mentioned as factors but are not clearly linked to political fragmentation. The essay did not earn a score of 5 because it presents a vague thesis and has only one fully developed factor for Spain, but it merited more than a score of 3 because the thesis is acceptable and most of the major assertions are supported with valid evidence.

Sample: 2C

Score: 2

The essay has a minimally acceptable thesis but identifies only one valid factor for the fragmentation of Italy (divided into city-states) that is weakly developed. Except for the mention of the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella in the thesis statement (not supported by any evidence of how it promoted centralization), the essay contains no factors for Spain. The essay did not earn higher than a 2 because it lacks supporting evidence, but it earned higher than a 1 because it has a weak but acceptable thesis and addresses developments in both Spain and Italy, however minimally.